



# TORRANCE PRESS

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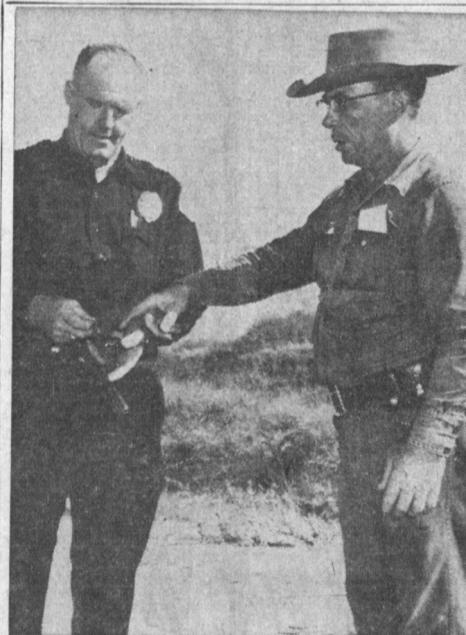
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**FAST ACTION**—Officer Ray Silagy, in crouched position, squeezes off shot during firearms refresher course given to police personnel. Lt. A. S. Thompson, the instructor, stresses value of speed and accuracy. —Press Photos by Art Willey

## Rob Liquor Store; Market Burglarized



**GUN SAFETY**—Officer Zeke Trezise gets pointers from Lt. A. S. Thompson, instructor on arms safety.

### Pair Robs Woman Clerk at Gunpoint

Two youths held up a liquor store for more than \$100 Friday night, while burglars drilled a hole through a market roof to get away with \$600.

The gunmen, both in their early twenties and one wearing a black leather jacket, walked into a crowded liquor store at 18915 Crenshaw Blvd. and waited until customers had left.

Then they ordered Margaret Watts, a clerk, to put money from the register and a metal box into a sack, threatening her with a snub-nosed revolver.

"Don't try anything funny, and lay down on the floor," they told her as they left the store.

The burglary of Border's Market, Prairie Ave. and Redondo Beach Blvd., was discovered by California Highway Patrol officers, who heard the alarm go off and saw an open back door.

Investigation disclosed that the thieves had gained entry into the building by drilling a hole through the roof and letting themselves inside. Downstairs they took approximately \$600 in rolled coins from the cash registers and left by the rear door, officers said.

### Eye New Zone for Downtown Apts.

A new zoning ordinance which could lead to the conversion of a large section of downtown Torrance to an apartment district is expected to be considered at the Sept. 1 City Council meeting. The Planning Commission Wednesday night recommended that the new land use law be ordered drawn up so that hearings can be called.

The proposed law would create an R-R-3 zone which could then be applied in the area south of Carson St., and between Cabrillo and Arlington Aves., now zoned for single family homes, most of them of older types.

**Force Removal**  
The new zone is designed to force removal of existing houses before new apartments can be built on the land. This is to prevent additions to existing homes which could be done if the area is rezoned to R-3, it was pointed out.

Planning Director George Powell said that if the City Council approves preparation of the new zone ordinance, two hearings on it will be held by the Planning Commission, and a third before the City Council.

**More Hearings**  
If it is then adopted, hearings on the rezoning of the area south of downtown could be instituted.

The section involved is composed of approximately 500 lots, most of them with relatively narrow frontage. It was estimated that approximately 2000 apartment units could be built in the area involved.

In other Planning Commission actions, a petition by Dan Butcher for change of zone from A-1 to R-1 for 25 lots on the south side of Emerald St., and 305 feet west of Valerie St., was taken under study.

The commission recommended denial on the request of Flavio Rodriguez for a variance to build a service station on the southeast corner of 174th St., and Prairie Ave.

### Torrance Area Phone Prefixes Being Changed

More than 800 "NEvada 6" telephones in the Torrance, Lomita, Wilmington and San Pedro areas are now being changed to "SPruce 5," according to Dick Pyle, Pacific Telephone manager.

The change is being brought about because of increasing demand for Los Angeles exchange service in the Harbor area, Pyle said.

Only the prefix name and first number are being changed. The last four digits of the telephone numbers will remain the same.

New "SPruce 5" telephone numbers have already been mailed to "NEvada 6" telephone users. Fairfax telephones in Torrance will not be affected by the number change, Pyle said.

### Rubbish Bills Now Collected at City Hall

Rubbish bills, formerly paid in the municipal water department office, are now collected by the city treasurer's office in the City Hall, 3031 Torrance Blvd., Jerome I. Scharfman, director of finance announced.

The billing and accounting work for trash bills were recently transferred to his department.



**ON THE FIRING LINE**—Officers practice pistol range. Speed in blazing away at target crouch position as they aim at targets on police is stressed as self-protection measure.

### Policemen Get Bang Out of Their Duties

Torrance policemen are getting a real bang out of their jobs these days. They're taking a refresher course in firearms handling, using a modified method of the "fast draw." "No cowboy Thompson hastens to point out. "Too many guys shoot themselves in the leg that way."

What he is advocating is to aim, cock and fire in one movement, instead of the former system of stopping to cock the action and then firing.

That system is too slow, he maintains.

**Close Range**  
According to statistics, 90 per cent of the gun fights involving police take place at 30 feet or less. The fellow who shoots first, usually walks away from it," Thompson explained.

He points out that accuracy is naturally stressed, but that at that short distance, a man usually presents a pretty good sized target.

"We first teach the men to shoot accurately. The speed comes later," the lieutenant said.

The classes, part of an FBI-endorsed service training, includes a shooting drill for all men and women on the department. They learn to shoot from several different positions, including prone, behind barricades and in a crouch. The course is conducted on the police pistol range on Crenshaw Blvd. near 258th St.

**Other Classes**  
At a later date classes will also be given in fingerprint methods, report writing and traffic sessions.

The department requires policemen to qualify in shooting once a month, but since the city offers no shooting money, some of them

don't participate. To Thompson, a longtime firearms buff, this lack of interest seems somewhat puzzling since any officer may have to use his gun in line of duty.

"It's like a carpenter going to work with a broken handle on his hammer," he declared.

### Bullfight Law Querie Puzzles City Officials

Possibility that an attempt may be made to stage a bullfight here was indicated Friday when inquiries were made at city hall.

The city attorney's office said that it received a call from an unidentified man who asked about an ordinance prohibiting bullfighting. The ordinance was adopted three years ago, after a request was made to stage a bloodless bullfight in Gardens.

An employe in the city clerk's office said that she also received a phone call. During the conversation, interest was also expressed in the city-owned land behind the civic center, where the Rancho Days rodeo was held.

### Youth Critical After His Car Shatters Pole

An Inglewood motorist was in critical condition yesterday after his car sheared a power pole and wound up 90 feet away down an embankment.

Stephen Roland Foster, 17, of 3742 W. 109th St., was taken to Harbor General Hospital with a compound fracture of the left arm and leg, possible brain concussion and multiple cuts and bruises.

It took rescuers more than 30 minutes to free the youth from the wreckage of the car which had rolled down the embankment near Hawthorne and Lomita Blvds. at approximately 3 a.m.

After the pole was cut in half, the car traveled another 90 feet, officers said.

### YOUNGSTER INJURED

Michael Emon Walsh, 2, of 5401 Calle de Arboles, was taken to the family doctor after he was struck by an auto driven by Reginald S. Doll, 43, of 613 Paseo de los Reyes, near his home Wednesday.

### MILLER IN FRANCE

Army Pvt. James R. Miller, son of Herbert Miller, of 16730 Cherry St., is assigned to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, near Paris, France.



**ON THE GRIDDLE**—It looks like Betty Baker, 3 for new teachers. Helping chef the affair are Miss Torrance, is being roasted here for the annual steak barbecue to be given here Sept. —Press Photo



**FIRING FROM COVER**—Use of protection such as barricades is stressed during gunnery refresher course. Officers have been learning several firing positions, including shooting with left hand as is done here by Officer Ray Silagy.



**GUN GAL**—Police Matron Lois Reynolds and Lt. Thompson inspect target which she has been using during refresher course given to police personnel.